



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

STATEWIDE QUALITY FIRST ASSESSMENT REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATION RFGA # FTF-STATE-12-0335-00 FACT SHEET

WHAT IS THE FIRST THINGS FIRST STATEWIDE QUALITY FIRST ASSESSMENT GRANT PROGRAM?

First Things First will fund the successful Applicant(s) to implement components of Quality First, a voluntary comprehensive quality improvement and rating system for early care and education programs serving children five years and younger. Quality First is designed to improve the quality of Arizona's early care and education programs so that young children can begin school safe, healthy and ready to succeed.

The goal of this funding opportunity is to link seamlessly with the Coaching and Incentive component of Quality First by providing comprehensive assessment of program quality within early care and education programs regulated by the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS), Arizona Department of Economic Security, tribal and military government. Assessment refers to a research-based, consistent method of observing and analyzing the physical and interpersonal environment in which children are served, and reporting the results of that analysis.

Funding for this opportunity will cover implementation costs associated with the following:

1. Individual program assessment for participating centers and homes that include but is not limited to: on-site assessment visits, compilation of assessment observation notes and scoring data, collection of quality rating documentation and data entry of assessment results into the First Things First Quality First database
2. Supervision, training and professional development for assessment staff
3. Ongoing assessment training on the Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) and the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) for Quality First assessors and the Coaching and Incentive Component

4. Cross regional, statewide coordination and collaboration with First Things First funded strategies, identified state agencies, and early care and education community partners

WHAT IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE?

Approximately \$4,803,000.00 is available in this Request for Grant Application, including \$1,497,600 State funded Quality First slots, \$3,205,400 regionally funded Quality First Expansion slots, and \$100,000 for Assessment Tool Training for Assessment and Coaching staff statewide.

The anticipated contract period for any resultant grant will be July 1, 2011 - to June 30, 2012.

PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR THE GRANT MAKING PROCESS

March 16, 2011	RFGA available on-line
April 28, 2011	Applications due to the location listed in the RFGA by 1:00 p.m.
July 1, 2011	Anticipated grant awards made

HOW TO GET A COPY OF THE RFGA

Please visit the First Things First web site on or after March 16, 2011: <http://www.azftf.gov/>

QUESTIONS?

All questions must be submitted in writing and include **RFGA # FTF-STATE-12-0335-00** in the subject line of the email or on the cover sheet of the fax.

Questions should be submitted to the Grants and Contracts Procurement Specialist via email at grants@azftf.gov or via fax at (602) 265-0009.